

PRESENT: Supervisor Dennis Brochey; Councilmembers Bax, Marra and Winkley, Town Attorneys Davis and Seaman; Finance Officer Kloosterman; 1 Press; 3 Residents and Clerk Donna Garfinkel

EXCUSED: Councilman Conrad

The Supervisor opened the meeting, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent reflection.

The Supervisor thanked the Board members for attending. He said there will be a Worksession on July 21, 2014 at 6:30 pm. The Board will have an August 11, 2014 Worksession, and will continue with Worksessions for the remainder of the year.

HYDRO POWER WATER BILL DISCOUNT

The Supervisor contacted the NYPA Corporate Office in White Plains, and is working on a different direction to give the residents the discount. Brochey needs a motion of approval to not use the discount through water bills. NYPA's opinion is the discount needs to be used towards electricity.

Kloosterman said the funds are in a T-Account. The dollars will continue to accumulate in the account until a decision is made. The main reason for this Special Meeting is that water bills will be printed tomorrow and a decision needed to be made.

Bax said NYPA is telling the Town it is unable to use the dollars in that manner, the Town needs to somehow adjust what is being done. Keeping the money in escrow makes perfect sense.

Seaman has reviewed the contract between the NYPA and the Town. It does not require Lewiston to constantly go back and forth with White Plains to ask permission, it requires Lewiston to do what is in the contract. With that being said, Seaman believes with a consultation with the Board, all can figure out a plan that fits with the contract. It is better than asking various officials at NYPA what they think. There are options in the agreement that require documentation of what is done.

Bax MOVED to suspend the NYPA discount on the Lewiston water bills from this day forward, pending the formulation of a new plan, Seconded by Winkley and Carried 4 – 0.

HEALTH CARE CONSORTIUM

The Niagara County Supervisors Association has been meeting on a proposed Health Care Consortium. The main requirement to allow a consortium is at least 2,000 members. The Niagara County Legislature has showed interest which could increase it to 4,000. They are looking for support from Lewiston to perform a feasibility study into the savings.

Bax MOVED to enter into the following Shared Cooperative Insurance Initiate Resolution, WHEREAS, the twenty-one (21) municipalities in and including Niagara County have a fundamental, fiduciary responsibility to provide essential services to the constituents they serve at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayer; and WHEREAS, the municipalities of and including Niagara county continue to experience an increase in the costs of various operating expenses, but particularly in employee healthcare costs; and WHEREAS, healthcare costs have risen dramatically and steadily over the past several years with increases of some municipalities averaging more than 15 – 18% annually over the past several years; and WHEREAS, these rising costs translate to lower wages, reduced benefits, more restrictive coverage eligibility and place increased pressure on ever-tightening municipal budgets and ever-increasing burdens on local taxpayers; and WHEREAS, the current delivery structure of employee healthcare coverage, which consists of more than twenty-one (21) different health plans, is unwieldy, administratively

inefficient , lacks uniformity in coverage and encounters barriers to the inclusion of employees in the process; and
WHEREAS, Article 47 of the New York State Insurance law authorizes municipalities to form consortiums, or municipal cooperative health plans, in order to share the costs of self funding health plans; and
WHEREAS, the concept of offering a common, self funded health insurance program which pools the health insurance risk of all the municipalities and assures reasonable costs, greater predictability and stability in the healthcare market should be explored; and
WHEREAS, the municipalities in and including Niagara County believe that by establishing a consortium, it will provide an alternative approach to stabilizing health claim costs, lowering administrative costs and strengthen negotiating power with health care providers while promoting greater participation of the municipal employees throughout the process; and
WHEREAS, the Niagara County Supervisors Association has issued a Request for Proposals to retain a consultant to provide consultation services to among other things, provide a feasibility recommendation to all interested municipalities in and including Niagara County and to project cost savings over a five and ten year period...
NOW THEREFORE, the Town of Lewiston resolves to appoint individuals to sit on an Ad Hoc Advisory committee that will consist of a representative from each participating municipality for the purpose of exploring an insurance cooperative; and
FURTHER RESOLVED to prove the information required by a consultant who will analyze and provide a recommendation to the Town of Lewiston whether or not it is in the best interest of the Town of Lewiston to join a healthcare benefits consortium in Niagara County and enter into a confidentiality agreement and authorize the chief executive officer to sign such agreement subject to approval of the municipal attorney for the Town of Lewiston, and authorize the Supervisor and Kloosterman to sit in on an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee for the purpose of exploring an insurance cooperative, Seconded by Marra and Carried 4 – 0.

Supervisor requested entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Winkley MOVED to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel, Seconded by Bax and Carried 4 – 0. (8:15 am)

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Discussion on personnel.

Winkley MOVED to exit Executive Session, Seconded by Marra and Carried 4 – 0.

No actions taken.

Winkley MOVED to adjourn the Special meeting, Seconded by Marra and Carried 4 – 0.

Respectfully Transcribed and Submitted by:

Donna R. Garfinkel
Acting Town Clerk